Gravel-Voiced Valet His Own Competitor

By JIM DOYLE

NEW YORK (NANA) — Television is a cut-throat business, but at least Eddie Anderson isn't going to find himself in competition with Rochester.

For a while, it looked like he was, and the interesting part of all this is that Rochester, Jack Benny's perennial gentleman's gentleman, in private life is none other than Eddie Anderson, of course.

He's playing Noah in the Hallmark Hall of Fame production of "Green Pastures" on NBC-TV March 23. Scarcely had the 90-minute color show been announced when the New York outlet of another network scheduled the 1936 movie version of the Marc Connolly play for a few days before the NBS show. And by no coincidence at all, the movie Noah is played by one Eddie Anderson.

NBC let it be known—unofficially, of course — that they considered this dirty pool.

The Hallmark production is a repeat performance. When it was first presented in October, 1957, the critics hailed it as a milestone in TV drama and continuing public interest prompted the sponsors to stage the repeat, with the original cast as far as possible.

Eddie Anderson's portrayal of Noah in the original drew raves and his skilled handling of the part came as a pleasing surprise to a whole generation of radio and TV fans who knew him almost exclusively as the gravel-voiced Rochester.

An older brother's toothache put him in the acting business when he was 12 years old. The brother was playing in a Gus Edwards revue in San Francisco when the toothache felled him and Eddie was drafted for the part. (The family lived in Oakland, across the bay.) His debut was notable, but hardly auspicious. With stage centre at his disposal and a hushed and expectant audience, he froze.

Another case of stage-fright in 1937 converted Eddie Anderson into Rochester. Jack Benny had a colored valet-butler who was stage-struck and Benny wrote a part for him into his radio show. But the sight of a microphone struck him dumb and Anderson, then in Hollywood doing bit parts and extra jobs, tried out for and got the part.

The rest is history.

Now Anderson wants to be a private eye. And he is going to try to produce an all-Negro western movie, and if this is at first thought a startling proposition, he points out that there were a number of colored marshals in the Old West.

EDDIE ANDERSON

'Room at the Top' at the Top

Britain Gives Own 'Oscars'

LONDON (UPI) — Britain's film industry passed out its own academy awards last night, most of them to British films and movie personalities.

"Room at the Top," which was shown for only three days during 1958, collected awards for the best film of the year, the best British film, and the best foreign actress in the person of Simone Signoret of France.

"Orders to Kill," a British thriller, also collected three awards: Irene Worth as the best British actress, Paul Dehn as the best British screen writer, and Paul Massie as the most promising newcomer.

Trevor Howard was named the best British actor for his role in "The Key."

Other awards included:

Sidney Poitier, best foreign actor, in "The Defiant Ones."

"The Defiant Ones" as the film best illustrating one or more principles of the U.S. character.

"Glass," a Dutch film, best documentary.

"The Little Island," English, best animated film.

Film to Be Shown To Silver Threads

The film, "Such a Busy Day Tomorrow," will be shown at the meeting of the Silver Threads Service at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Spencerhouse, 1951 Cook Street.

Lumbermen Score 'Protection'

VANCOUVER (CP) — The British Columbia lumber industry Thursday warned the federal government not to embark on a protectionist policy on trade.

The result, said the industry, would be "ultimate disaster" for Canada.

The protest against "what appears to be a new trend toward protectionist policy within the federal government" was sent in a letter to all B.C. members of Parliament and cabinet ministers.

It came from the B.C. Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Consolidated Red Cedar Shingle Association of B.C., the Plywood Manufacturers Association of B.C., and the truck loggers' association.

"Canadians have the grim lesson of the world-wide depression of the thirties to warn them that ultimate disaster can come from the actions of various countries each trying to become more prosperous by reducing imports," the organization said.

They said Canada has always been a "free trade" country because it has to sell its products on world markets to live.

"It is disturbing now to see some signs of a narrowing and restrictionist trade policy developing in Canada," they said.

Old High School Close to Vanishing

The old North Saanich High School, at the corner of Cresswell Road and Willingdon Road, being torn down to make way for the new Patricia Bay Airport administration building, is nearing final stage demolition.

Built before the Second World War, it was abandoned because of its proximity to the airport runways when they were built, but was re-opened, because of classroom shortage, for a period before the 1956 building program in the district.

Trombonist Featured At the Scene

The Scene, home of the Progressive Artists' Society at 1306 Wharf Street, feautres trombonist Ray Sikora this weekend.

Mr. Sikora is a graduate of the Westlake College of Music in California, and is now arranger for Les Elgart's Orchestra.

Furnishing the rest of the music will be Buddy Glover, piano; Chuck Logan, drums, and Bob Miller, bass.

Airport Gets Fire Truck

A new fire truck for Patricia Bay airport arrived Wednesday aboard the Holland America Line freighter Dongedyk.

The new eight-ton vehicle is equipped with all modern fire and emergency apparatus to be used in case of aircraft fires or crashes. It was built by the Pyrene Co. in England.

The fur seals which migrate yearly to the islands of the North Pacific weigh as much as 250 pounds.

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Cougars 9.30-10.30 a.m.
Patch Session 3.30-5.30 p.m.
V.F.S.C. 5.00-7.00 p.m.
Student Jamb. 8.00-10.00 p.m.
Sidney Rec. 10.00-12.00 p.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
Minor Hockey 7.00-10.00 a.m.
V.F.S.C. 11.00-1.00 p.m.
Public Skating 2.00-4.00 p.m.
Spokane-Cougars 8.30 p.m.
East Ind. Asso. 10.30-11.30 p.m.

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